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1784. *Jan.* 2. (18 present.)

Mr. Matlack, about to move into New York State, delivered up the Vol. of Trans. containing members' names; papers read at the Board; MS. of Proceedings beginning April, 1766; and "a bundle of papers containing some proceedings of the Society down to the year 1775, which he had obtained from R. S. Jones; also the Seal of the Society."

ELECTION.

*President*, Benj. Franklin.

*V. Ps.*, Bond, Ewing, White.

*Counc.*, M<sup>c</sup>Kean, Bryan, Marbois, Caldwell.

*Secs.*, Patterson, Hutchison, Bond, Jr., Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Kunzie.

*Curators*, Hazard, Duffield, Nichola [*sic*].

*Treas.*, Hopkinson.

[Librarian Rittenhouse is then said to have received Matlack's papers and the Seal.]

[The Vol. of Trans. with names, however, went into the care of "M<sup>r</sup>. Kuntzie." (*sic*.)]

1784. *Jan'y* 16. (21 present.)

Mr. Hopkinson read an Address, "the tenor of which was to stimulate the members to more punctuality in attending the meetings of the Society, & with greater ardor to promote the important designs of its institution" . . . . and moved a Committee to propose additions and alterations to the Constitution and By-laws, to "procure a suitable building, & moderate philosophical apparatus for the use of the Society, and in general to recommend all such matters, measures and things as they may deem conducive to the end and design of the Institution."—Hopkinson, Ewing, Hazard, Morgan and Rittenhouse were appointed this Committee.

Filsted's Jamaica woods collection presented.

Hazard (Curator) transferred books to Rittenhouse's care.

Count Campomanes, Rev<sup>d</sup>. S. Magaw, S. Vaughn, J. Vaughn, Rev<sup>d</sup> Jer. Belknap, Maj. De Brahm, Prof. Arch.

Gamble (Eng. and oratory U. Pa.) Rev. Helmuth, J. Six, Marquis d'Angeville, Comte de Vergennes, J. Dunlap, J. P. Van Berckel, Geo. Fox, J. Foulke, Ben. Binney, Rev<sup>d</sup>. R. Blackwell, Jon. D. Sergeant, Geo. Gray, M<sup>r</sup>. Haywood, of S. C., and M<sup>r</sup>. John Hyacinthe de Magellan, of London, were elected new members.

1784. *Feb'y* 6. (27 present.)

Com. on revising the Constitution and laws reported recommendations:

1. A petition for a supplement to the Act of Incorporation [19 lines].
2. That no absentee Councillors be re-elected; the Councillors regularly summoned by tickets to the meetings; permission to the Councilmen to meet in their own apartments; other members might attend but not vote; five members should be a quorum to disburse money, at any stated meeting, due notice given.
3. Annual & Certificate tax [in blank] fixed; 3 years' arrears deprive of membership.
4. That measures be immediately taken for erecting a suitable building . . . if a lot were purchased, it would not be difficult to raise by subscription funds to build . . . at least it ought to be "vigorously attempted without delay" . . . and one of the offered "lots be forthwith determined upon."
5. A subscription immediately opened . . . and an application to the Legislature for aid . . . "as soon as £1000 shall be subscribed, a committee be appointed to plan a suitable Edifice to be laid before the Society for approbation & to superintend the Building . . .

The first three were laid over to allow of public notice.

The fourth resulted in a resolution to purchase the Hopkinson Lot next the Observatory in Arch street (40' × 306') for £600, half down, half on interest for five years.

The fifth recommendation was adopted.

M<sup>r</sup>. Hopkinson was asked to repeat his address; and after doing so, he was requested to allow its publication.

The auditing committee reported a balance of £404 .. 11 .. 9½ in the Treasurer's hands.

The woods of Jamaica; Calculi taken from horses; a book; and a MS. copy of Mandrillon's Answer to the prize question of the Lyons Academy presented.

1784. *Feb'y* 20. (19 present.)

Sam<sup>l</sup> Vaughan presented to the Society a  $3\frac{1}{2}'$  Achromatic Dolland; a Gunter's scale improved by J. Robertson (Late Lib<sup>a</sup> R. S.); a magazine microscope; a  $11\frac{1}{2}''$  lens, and  $6\frac{1}{2}''$  lens "framed in a mahogany trunked cone and stand; with rack work, pillar, pinion, and apparatus so as to be acted upon by the focal rays in the most powerful manner, made and presented by M<sup>r</sup>. Parker. M<sup>r</sup>. Vaughan's name was ordered to be "enrolled amongst those of the Benefactors of this Society."

The deed of the Hopkinson lot was produced and deposited with M<sup>r</sup>. Rittenhouse. A bond and mortgage was ordered to be sealed.

The task of drawing a form of Certificate of membership was entrusted to a Committee, D<sup>r</sup>. Smith and D<sup>r</sup>. Magaw.

D<sup>r</sup>. Morgan read a paper on the virtues of *Cortex ruber*.

1784. *March* 5. (19 present.)

[The Legislature had evidently granted assistance, for]

"A Com. was appointed to apply to the Treasurer of the State for the sum of money granted to this Society by the Assembly."

Bainad & Caillard's proposals for printing a Vol. of Trans. were referred to MM. Hazard & Marbois to consider and report.

Sigismund Hugge's letter on five thermometers in February.

Nicola presented Observations on petrified bones found near the Ohio; thigh-bone, tusk and grinder, brought to the city by Maj. Craig.

Rittenhouse had received the deed, and sealed the bond.

"Ordered M<sup>r</sup>. S. Vaughan, M<sup>r</sup>. Rittenhouse & M<sup>r</sup>. Hopkinson be a Committee to consider the most eligible means of providing the Society with a suitable Building."

1784. *March 19.* (26 present.)

Com. on Vol. Trans. reported in writing; action postponed. [It would be interesting to find this document.]

Franklin's letter, with a French treatise on Air Balloons. Dr. Rush was requested to publish the letter and translations of the most interesting parts of the treatise.

S. Vaughn presented a MS. copy of "Priestley's Experiments on Phlogiston and the seeming concoction of water into air," and read the first part.

The Building Committee reported conference with the Directors of the Library Co. of Philadelphia and the presentation of a joint petition to the General Assembly, "for two Lots of ground on the East and West sides of the State-House square." . . . "Highly approved."

Mr. Hopkinson added to the Certificate Committee.

Rittenhouse read observations on the "Comet lately discovered."

1784. *April 2.* (14 present.)

Dunlap's proposals to print a Vol. Trans. read and laid on the table.

Certificate draft adopted in form following:—

The American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for Promoting Useful knowledge, desirous of advancing the Interests of the Society, by associating to themselves . . . [Blank left to be filled.]

[Short—but the blank in third line was ordered to be filled, "in case of a resident member with the following words—'Gentleman of Genius, Ability and literary Merit,'—and in case of a foreign member—'Men of distinguished Eminence, and of Conferring marks of their esteem upon Persons of literary merit.'"]

Engraving of Certificate ordered by Com. of De Brahm and Du Simitière.

J. Vaughn presented (by letter) 33 Vols. of Priestley's works. S. Vaughn, copper-plate prints of Mechanical Machines, 2 Vol. F., and a number of other fine works.

La Fayette's letter, "enclosing an authentic narrative of experiments lately made in France with Air Balloons."

"Dr. Bond (V. P.) being dead, an election for his successor was ordered for the next meeting.

1784. *April 16.* (16 present.)

Belknap's letter on the preserving of parsnips by drying.

Radiger's account for candles, £2 .. 7 .. 3, ordered paid.

La Fayette's packet duplicated by one of the Secretaries.

1784. *May 7.* (17 present.)

Hopkinson ordered to settle finally De Haven's account.

Rittenhouse's offer of £3 and taxes for this year's use of the Arch street lot, accepted.

S. Vaughn elected Vice-President, vice Bond, deceased.

Thos. Bradford's proposal to print Vol. 2 Trans. accepted; conditions as follows:—"1. The work to be executed on good paper & a new letter & in such a manner as will do credit to the Society; 2. Thirty copies in boards to be delivered to the Society gratis and any further number at a price that may be thought reasonable by the Society." Mr. Bradford would hold exclusive copyright of printing and vending the same for fourteen years; but the publication to be under Committee's inspection.

Hopkinson and Bradford added to Certificate engraving committee.

*Resolved*, That Thos. Bradford be appointed printer to this Society during the pleasure of the same.

Hazard, Nichola [*sic*] and Rittenhouse appointed a Com. for collecting papers proper to publish in Vol. 2. Trans.

1784. *May 22.* (6 present.)

Hopkinson requested to have the form of Certificate *printed* for immediate use (pending engraving).

1784. *June 11.* (13 present.)

Hopkinson produced a number of [printed?] certificates. Ordered that [blank] of them be filled with the names of the following foreign members viz. [large blank] and . . . . . deliver the same to the Minister of France . . . . . to convey . . . . .

Descriptions of machines invented in the United Netherlands for draining marshes, scouring canals, &c., presented and referred to a Com.

Dr Morgan's motion for encouraging an effort to send up a large air balloon was deferred to the next meeting.

[This minute of 19 lines is very curious and amusing.]

Hutchinson, Morgan and Rush added to the Com. to collect papers for Vol. 2. Trans.

1784. *June 19.* (13 present.)

Botanical garden ordered to be planted on 200 feet of the Arch Street lot next the Observatory. Hopkinson and Rittenhouse a Com. to "look out for" a gardener.

The United Netherlands machine papers accepted by the Committee and ordered to be published in Vol. 2, the originals to be deposited with Rittenhouse.

Williamson's paper on the flat coast of N. Carolina returned at his request.

Dr Morgan read a paper on Air Balloons and withdrew his motion (see June 11).

1784. *July 15.* Only 3 present, two clergymen and Mr Patterson.

Election of new members postponed.

[The heat had driven the Society out of town, probably.]

1784. *Aug. 12.* *Special Appointment.* (22 present.)

La Fayette "entertained them with a particular relation of the wonderful effects of a certain invisible power, in

nature, called *animal magnetism* lately discovered by Mr. Mesmer, a German Philosopher, and explained by him to a number of Gentlemen in Paris of which number the Marquis was himself one. By this Relation it appears that persons may be so impregnated with this power (by a process which the Marquis does not think himself at liberty yet to explain) as to exhibit many phenomena similar to those of metallic magnetism."

1784. *Aug. 20.* (6 present.) [No minutes.]

1784. *Oct. 15.* (12 present.)

Belknap's Hist. of New Hampshire presented with a letter.

1784. *Nov. 5.* (6 present.)

Com. of 2 to examine and price collection of Curiosities of late M. Simitière (S. Vaughn, Dr. White). Special meeting ordered, and money notice given.

1784. *Nov. 12. Special meeting.* (16 present.)

Com. reported that the Collection was not yet arranged in lots and selection and estimate was therefore impossible.

Com. on collecting papers for Vol. 2. directed "to compleat [*sic*] that business with all convenient speed" . . . .

Com. of 3, "to take the opinion of the Chief Justice . . . . respecting certain sections of the Charter of Incorporation . . . ." (Dr. Shippen Jr., Matlack, Hopkinson.)

Com. of 3 to draft "a petition to the Assembly for a lot of ground in the State House square [*sic*] for the purpose of erecting thereon a suitable building . . . ."

Medal of Rev<sup>d</sup> Chr. Meyer of Heidelberg, received.

Cor. Secs. ordered to report whether they had performed their duty in acknowledging foreign presents.

Hopkinson ordered to settle with former Treas. Lukens.



1784. *Nov.* 19. (12 present.)

Hutchinson reported all presents acknowledged except Mr. Parker's burning lens.

Letter on *animal magnetism* by Chev<sup>r</sup> d'Armours [*sic*] with pamphlet by Dr. P. Hervier [?] of the Sorbornes [*sic*] read.

Spec. Com. of 2 (Hopkinson and Patterson) ordered to publish Vol. 2. Under the direction of the General Committee.

1784. *Dec.* 9. (10 present.)

Hazard sends in a list of papers in Rittenhouse's possession, and asks his own discharge.

Improvement on Hadley's quadrant by Mr. Ben Workman (teacher of Math. in the Univ.), described by Mr. Patterson. Publication ordered.

Petition to the Assembly for two lots. Draft presented and read and "amended so as to submit the particular appropriation of said lots entirely [*sic*] to the good pleasure of the Assembly."

"Ordered that if the Library Company shall think proper to adopt the above amendment the petition be immediately presented; but if the said Library Company shall decline this, that the Committee be directed to present a similar petition in name of this Society alone."

Further improvements in quilling a harpsichord.

M. Marbois presented the Report of the Commissioners appointed by the King of France to examine into the merits of Dr. Mesmer's late discovery of animal magnetism.

1784. *Dec.* 17. (No names of members are given.)

The Library Company having declined to join in the [amended joint] petition, Mr. Vaughn reported that he had presented a sole petition.

Pub. Com. reported that Mr. Bradford's answer to their query when he would begin had not been satisfactory. Ordered that Mr. B. be asked whether he would be ready by



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the 1st of February and how long it would take to get out the Vol. If unsatisfactory “the Society have it in contemplation to apply to some other printer.”

1785. *Jan'y 7.* (14 present.)

#### ELECTION.

*President*, B. Franklin.

*V. P.*, Ewing, White, S. Vaughan.

*Coun.*, J. Ingersoll, J. B. Smith, Jos. Reed, Rev<sup>d</sup> R. Blackwell.

*Secs.*, Hutchinson, D<sup>r</sup> T. Bond, R. Patterson, Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup> S. Magaw.

*Cur.*, E. Hazard, D<sup>r</sup> S. Duffield, Gen. Lewis Nicola.

*Treas.*, Fran. Hopkinson.

1785. *Jan'y 22.* (24 present.)

Mandrillon's *Le Spectateur Americaine* presented.

Election of *twenty-eight* new members (among them two Barons; James Maddison [*sic*] Esq. of Virginia; Muhlenberg, Michaelis, Priestley).

[A new handwriting appears in the minutes.]

1785. *Feb'y 4.* (15 present.)

Com. on Pub. ordered to report—Hazard added. Letter of Count Vergennes,—Certificates.

1785. *March 4.* (6 present.)

Bradford writes of his disappointment in not receiving his expected new types. He has no objection to their employing some one else. Committee ordered to immediately treat with M<sup>r</sup> Hall, or some other suitable printer.

A model of a wind-carriage; a rock crystal; an exceedingly large tusk and grinders from near Ohio; presented by W. Henry of Lancaster. And a huge moose horn from Mrs. Pauli of Philadelphia.

M<sup>r</sup> Hazard instructed to have certificate engraved.